

## Message Text

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60

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 DPW-01 SMI-01 CU-02 /073 W

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R 180853Z JUL 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6004

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJ: PRC FEATURES TOMB OF CH'IN SHIH HUANG

SUMMARY: OVER THE PAST WEEK LOCAL HONG KONG PUBLICATIONS HAVE REPLAYED NCNA ACCOUNTS OF ARCHEOLOGICAL FINDS NEAR THE BOMB OF CHINA'S FIRST EMPEROR, CH'IN SHIH HUANG. GIVEN THE COMMON ANALOGY DRAWN BETWEEN THE FIRST EMPEROR AND MAO, ALONG WITH MAO'S OBVIOUSLY DECLINING HEALTH, WE FEEL IT POSSIBLE THAT THERE COULD BE MORE THAN ARCHEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE TO FOCUSING ON THAT TOMB AT THIS TIME. END SUMMARY

1. ON 10JULY NCAN REPORTED THE DISCOVERY OF SEVERAL LIFE-SIZE POTTERY WARRIOR FIGURES ALONG WITH THEIR HORSES AND OTHER ARTIFACTS AT A NEW EXCAVATION SITE DISCOVERED LAST YEAR IN SHENSI PROVINCE, JUST EAST OF THE FAMOUS TOMB OF CH'IN SHIH HUNAG, CHINA'S FIRST GREAT EMPEROR WHO DIED IN 207 B.C. THIS STORY IS PICKED UP IN HONG KONG'S PRC-OWNED

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TA KUNG PAO ON 11 JULY WITH THE OBSERVATION THAT THE DISCOVERY

SHOULD REFUTE LIN PIAO AND SOVIET SLANDER AGAINST CH'IN AS  
A DESTROYER OF CULTURE. THE 17 JULY ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
SUPPLMENT OF TA KUNG PAO RUNS THE STORY TOO AND CARRIES IN -  
SERT PICTURES SHOWING THE TOMB OF CH'IN SHIH HUANG.

2. THE SUPPLEMENT ALSO CARRIES AN ARTICLE BY CHEN FAN CURIOUSLY ENTITLED "EMPEROR CH'IN'S BODYGUARDS". LIKE THE OTHER PRESS COMMENTARY, IT STRESSES THE HIGH TECHNICAL QUALITY OF THE POTTERY FIGURES IN "MARSHAL STANCE AND MILITARY PREPAREDNESS" AND ESTIMATES THAT WHEN EXCAVATION IS COMPLETED THERE MAY BE 6000 FIGURES IN ALL. THE ARTICLE DOES NOT ACTUALLY IDENTIFY THE POTTERY WARRIORS AS THE "EMPEROR'S BODYGUARDS" BUT CONCLUES WITH THE OBSERVATION THAT THESE FINDINGS SHOULD RAISE THE QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THEY ARE NOT "POSITIVE PROOF THAT HUMAN FUNERAL SACRIFICES HAD BEEN TOTALLY ABOLISHED AT THE TIME OF CH'IN".

3. THROUGH OUT THE ANTI-CONFUCIUS, ANTI-LIN PIAO CAMAPAIIGN, PRC MEDIA WAS AT PAINS TO PORTRAY CH'IN SHIH HUANG AS A GREAT AND PROGRESSIVEREMPEROR, IN PART TO REBUT ALLEGED SOVIET AND LIN PIAO SLANDER--- AND THE COMMONPLACE CONCEPTION THAT CH'IN WAS ONE OF THE CRUELLEST TYRANTS IN WORLD HISTORY. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE POTTERY FIGURES IN A DEFENSIVE CONTEXT THEN, WOULD BE THAT ACTUALLY ONLY CERAMIC LIKENESSES OF THE FIRST EMPEROR'S LOYAL FOLLOWERES HAD BEEN ENTOUMBED WITH HIM.  
TRADITIONAL ACCOUNTS OF CH'IN SHIH HUANG'S BURIAL RITE HAVE GENERALLY OFFERED A BLOODIER VERSION. HAN DYNASTY HISTORIAN SSU-MA CHIEN'S FAMOUS RECORDS OF THE HISTORIAN TELLS OF THE ELABORATE TREASURES IN THE GREAT TOMB, BUT IT ALSO REPORTED THAT ALL THE "EMPEROR'S LADIES" WHO HAD NOT BORNE HIM SONS WERE BURIED WITH HIM; ALL ARTISANS AND LABORERS WHO WORKED INSIDE THE TOMB WERE SEALED IN --BURIED ALIVE. SSU-MA CHIEN ALSO RECORDS THE FACT THAT SHORTLY AFTER THE DEATH OF THE FIRST EMPEROR, HIS YOUNG SUCCESSOR QUICKLY DISPOSED OF "PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS AND MILITARY TRIBUNES" AND "SENTENCED" THE CHIEF MINISTERS AND PRINCES TO DEATH" TO PRE-EMPT ANY PLOTS THOSE LOYA TO THE FIRST EMPEROR MAY HAVE HAD IN MIND. MEMBERS OF THE IMPERIAL FAMILY WERE "INTIMIDATED" AND DID NOTHING; "THE COMMON PEOPLE WERE AFRAID". A PALACE BLOODBATH QUICKLY FOLLOWED AND THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHOLE OF THE CH'IN EMPIRE COLLAPSED.

4. COMMENT: PERHAPS THERE IS NOTHING MORE THAN ARCHEOLOGY TO THE CURRENT ACCOUNT OF THE ANCIENT TOMB BUT WITH PERSISITING RUMORS OF MAO'S FRAIL HEALTH AND WITH A LONG-ESTABLISHED PATTERN OF VIEWING MAO IN TERMS OF CH'IN SHIH HUANG, WE WONDER THAT THERE MIGHT NOT BE A RIPPLE OF CONSTERNATON AMONG MAO'S CLOSE ADVISORS AND RETAINERS WHEN

THE ARCHEOLOGISTS NOW WANT TO RAISE THE QUESTION OF WHETHER  
THE EMPEROR'S MEN -- AND LADIES--- WERE BURIED  
LITERALLY OR FIGURATIVELY ALONG WITH THE EMPEROR.  
CROSS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, ARCHEOLOGY  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 JUL 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975HONGK08242  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750249-0381  
**From:** HONG KONG  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750743/aaaabmnc.tel  
**Line Count:** 119  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <16 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <27 OCT 2003 by KelleyW0>  
**Review Markings:**  

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRC FEATURES TOMB OF CH'IN SHIH HUANG SUMMARY: OVER THE PAST WEEK LOCAL HONG KONG PUBLICATIONS  
**TAGS:** PROP, CH, HK, (MAO TSE-TUNG), (CH'IN SHIH HUANG)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006